

Brent D. Sherard, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.P., Director and State Health Officer

Governor Dave Freudenthal

Chief's Corner

The Department of Health has contracted with former EMS Program Manager, Jim Mayberry, to serve as the Interim Program Manager for the EMS programs until the two currently vacant positions in EMS can be filled. Links to the Program Manager and the Trauma Nurse Coordinator positions can be found on the EMS website

Wyoming's EMS program budgets, as well as other Health Department program budgets, have undergone budget reductions and as such there will be changes to how the EMS Office addresses the needs of EMT training within the state. It is anticipated that OEMS will submit a supplemental budget request to the Department of Health Administration for consideration in next year's budget that will be submitted to the Governor.

Several EMS funding sources that previously provided funding to ambulance services for training, stipends for physician medical directors of ambulance services, and scholarship funds to ambulance services for EMT training have ended. In addition, the EMS Office has seen the federal dollars from the Preventive Health Block Grant moved to another program.

As a result of this significant reduction in funding to the EMS Office, requests for classes will be looked at more closely based upon need in the local community, number of currently certified EMTs in the community, and date of the last time a class was conducted in the community. Approved EMT-basic classes for the fall of 2010 will be at LCCC in Cheyenne, Casper College, Afton, Douglas, Gillette, Lyman, Pinedale, and Wheatland. Trainers will reduce the number of times that they will be at local classes with more responsibility being shifted to the local class coordinators. Class payments will remain the same with one check being sent to the local coordinator to be dispersed to instructors of each class.

August marks the beginning of the fall recertification period for those whose certification is due to expire at the end of December this year. For those who are recertifying this year you are reminded of the requirement to have a criminal background check completed as part of their recertification process. Information on the application and the process to follow to complete the background checks will be sent to those recertifying, is available from the EMS Office, and should be available at all ambulance services.

Recertification testing will be available beginning August 1, 2010. Testing may be done at the EMS Office by appointment only. Testing will be offered twice during the 40th Annual Wyoming Trauma Conference (Thursday, August 19th in the afternoon and immediately after the last conference session on Sunday, August 22nd). Trainers will be providing the written recertification examination at regional



Brent D. Sherard, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.P., Director and State Health Officer

Governor Dave Freudenthal

sites beginning the week after the 40th Annual Wyoming Trauma Conference. Recertification testing schedules will be sent out by the end of July.

The 40th Annual Wyoming Trauma Conference is rapidly approaching. Conference dates and information for registration are enclosed in this mailing to ambulance services. For questions concerning the conference for registration, precourse classes, and vendors contact Beth at the EMS Office (307-777-7955). The EMS Office is still accepting nominations for the Governor's Award for Physician Medical Director, Bystander of the Year Award, and for the Medic of the Year Awards. This year's Friday evening entertainment is being sponsored by American Medical Response which will feature a social gathering at the Depot Plaza in downtown Cheyenne. The Snake River Grille, the dining establishment attached to the Depot will be providing the food this year. Partners with the EMS Office for the conference include: American Medical Response (AMR), Wyoming State Fire Marshal's Office, the Wyoming Department of Health, the OEMS's Hospital Preparedness Program, and Wyoming Ambulance and EMS Association (WAEMSA). Speakers for the conference include: Katherine Beauchamp, MD, Chief of Neurosurgery at Denver Health, Steve Berry, Thom Dick, and Steve Murphy. The featured banquet speaker will be Dr. Al Snyder, comedian and hypnotist. The ever popular rifle and large screen TV raffles return. A lunch buffet with the vendors will be featured on Friday with giveaways provided throughout the conference.

The Wyoming State Fair is scheduled the same week as the 40th Annual Wyoming Trauma Conference and the EMS Office will be providing staff and supplies for the First Aid station coverage.

After several years of seeking funding and issuing an RFP, the EMS Office has secured a new EMS patient care report and hospital trauma registry software system. Image Trend was awarded the contract earlier this year. Jay Ostby will travel to ambulance services and hospitals to train personnel in the use of the new registries. Two classes will be conducted at the 40th Annual Wyoming Trauma Conference on the new software. Contact the EMS Office to register for one of these two training sessions. Further information on the software, hardware, and training will be forthcoming.